

ROMANTIC *Hearts*



10¢

No. 1
JULY



DARLING, I
WAS AFRAID
YOU LOVED
ANN!

WHO, ME? **NEVER!**
ANN'S TOO EASY!
ANY MAN CAN
KISS HER!

HE...HE'S
TALKING
ABOUT
ME!

I WAS A
**THRILL-
SEEKER!**

**SHE HATED HER
HUSBAND!**



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ELAINE MARRIED LARRY BECAUSE SHE LOVED HIM...BUT SHE ALSO MARRIED HIM TO ESCAPE BOREDOM AND LONELINESS. SHE THOUGHT MARRIAGE WAS GOING TO BE ONE THRILL AFTER ANOTHER...BUT WHEN SHE LEARNED THE TRUTH

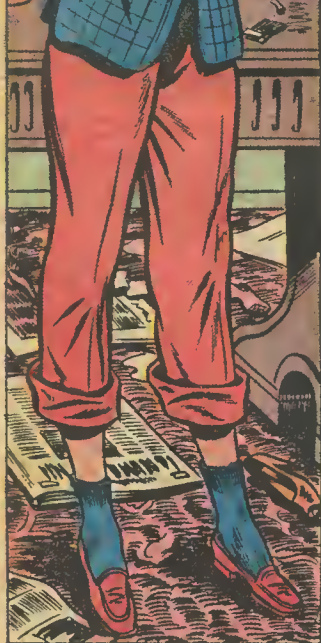
She Hated Her Husband!



YOUR NAME IS ELAINE HARRIS AND AT THE MOMENT YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND, LARRY, ARE FIGHTING THE LAST ROUND IN ONE OF YOUR FREQUENT MARITAL BATTLES...

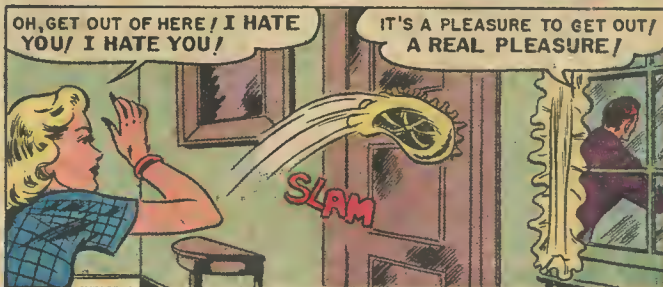
YOU DIDN'T WANT A WIFE... YOU WANTED A SLAVE!

SOMEDAY, MAYBE YOU'LL LEARN THAT MARRIAGE ISN'T A GAME... IT'S WORK/ HARD WORK/ AND SOMEDAY, MAYBE YOU'LL GROW-UP!



OH, GET OUT OF HERE/ I HATE YOU/ I HATE YOU!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO GET OUT/ A REAL PLEASURE!



YOU HEAR LARRY GET INTO HIS BATTERED '48 COUPE AND DRIVE OFF. YOU KNOW HE'S FURIOUS, BUT YOU DON'T CARE. YOU'RE FURIOUS TOO!

SURE, WHEN WE HAVE A FIGHT HE CAN JUST DRIVE OFF ANYWHERE HE PLEASES ... BUT I'M STUCK HERE!

BUT AS YOU ENTER THE BABY'S ROOM YOUR FACE SOFTENS. HE'S ONLY SEVEN MONTHS OLD, AND ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE MANY BITTER COMPLAINTS, YOU ADORE YOUR SON.

YES, MY SWEET-HEART, DON'T CRY MOMMY'S HERE..

AS YOU HOLD LITTLE BOBBIE YOUR MIND GOES BACK 18 MONTHS... TO WHEN YOU FIRST MET LARRY. YOU WERE A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL THEN, REMEMBER, ELAINE...?

HI, I'M LARRY HARRIS--TELEVISION REPAIRMAN. I GOT A CALL TO DO A JOB HERE.

COME ON IN. MOTHER AND DAD ARE OUT, BUT I CAN SHOW YOU WHERE THE SET IS.

REMEMBER AS YOU WATCHED HIM WORK, HOW YOU NOTICED HIS STRONG HANDS, AND THE QUICK EFFICIENT WAY THAT HE MOVED...?

HE'S NOT LIKE THE FELLAS I KNOW... HE'S A MAN, NOT JUST A BOY... A MAN!

REMEMBER, TOO, AFTER HE'D FINISHED HIS JOB, HOW HE TURNED AND GRINNED AT YOU...?

THERE, THAT DOES IT! NOW, AS FOR YOU, YOUNG WOMAN, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING OUT THERE IN THE HALL STARING AT ME?

WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY, I HAVEN'T, I...

BUT THEN YOU HAD TO START LAUGHING, REMEMBER, ELAINE? HE WAS RIGHT... YOU HAD BEEN STARING...

HAHAHA... I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARE.

THAT'S OKAY. LOOK, IT'S DINNER TIME AND YOUR FOLKS AREN'T HOME, HOW ABOUT GRABBING A HAMBURGER WITH ME?

YOU ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION, DIDN'T YOU, ELAINE? AND YOU HAD A WONDERFUL EVENING. HE WAS SO DIFFERENT... SO UNLIKE THE BOYS YOU KNEW IN SCHOOL...

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY WORKING CLOTHES. I WASN'T PLANNING ON BUYING A BEAUTIFUL GIRL DINNER!

NO, LARRY, I DON'T MIND. I DON'T MIND IN THE LEAST.

WHEN HE TOOK YOU HOME HE ASKED FOR A DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY AND YOU LEFT AT THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM AGAIN. REMEMBER HOW IMPRESSED THE GIRLS AT SCHOOL WERE WHEN YOU TOLD THEM THE NEWS?

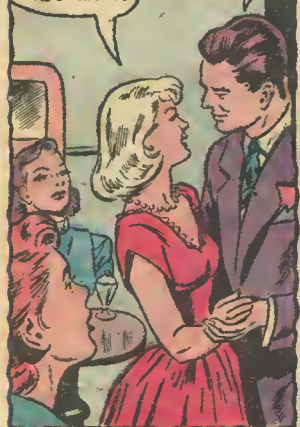


ELAINE, HOW WONDERFUL!

GEE, YOU SAY HE'S 26 YEARS OLD!

I WANTED TO SHOW YOU OFF, LARRY. WE CAN LEAVE ANYTIME YOU WANT.

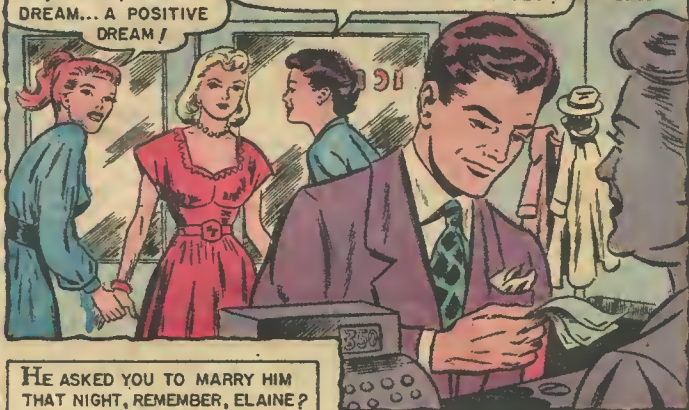
SHOW ME OFF, INDEED... YOU CRAZY LITTLE ANGEL!



YOU AND LARRY LEFT THE HIGH SCHOOL HANGOUT A SHORT TIME LATER AND YOU WERE REVELING IN THE OBVIOUS ENVY OF YOUR GIRL FRIENDS...

OH, ELAINE, HE'S A DREAM... A POSITIVE DREAM!

HOLD ON TO HIM, HONEY... HE'S WORTH A MILLION OF THESE HIGH SCHOOL HEROES!



AND HOLD ON TO HIM YOU DID. YOU DATED LARRY STEADILY FOR THREE MONTHS AND THEN ONE NIGHT...

HONEY, I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU... JUST CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

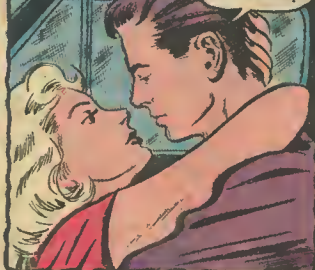
OH, LARRY, LARRY...



HE ASKED YOU TO MARRY HIM THAT NIGHT, REMEMBER, ELAINE? REMEMBER HOW PROUD AND HAPPY AND ELATED YOU WERE?

OH, YES, DARLING, I'LL MARRY YOU!

IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THIS PERFECT, ANGEL, BUT WE'LL HAVE A GOOD LIFE TOGETHER... I KNOW WE WILL!



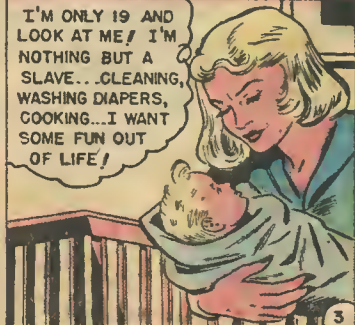
YES, YOU WERE THE ENVY OF ALL YOUR FRIENDS, ELAINE. YOU WERE DATING A MAN... A REAL MAN! AND YOU MADE SURE YOUR FRIENDS GOT A CHANCE TO SEE HIM.

ELAINE, WHY DID YOU WANT TO COME HERE? I WANTED TO TAKE YOU TO THE REGAL GARDENS!

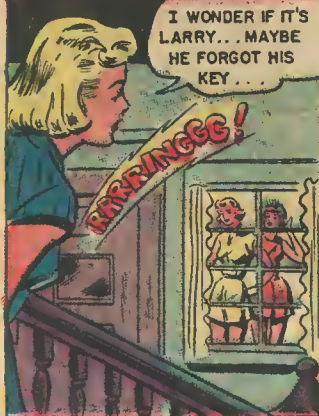


AND SO YOU WERE MARRIED, ELAINE... AND A YEAR LATER LITTLE BOBBIE WAS BORN. FUNNY, ISN'T IT, HOW NOW, ONLY AFTER 18 MONTHS, YOU HATE YOUR HUSBAND...?

I'M ONLY 19 AND LOOK AT ME! I'M NOTHING BUT A SLAVE... CLEANING, WASHING DIAPERS, COOKING... I WANT SOME FUN OUT OF LIFE!



YOU REPLACE THE BABY IN HIS CRIB AND START BACK DOWN THE STAIRS. IT'S LATE IN THE AFTERNOON AND MANY OF THOSE HATED CHORES ARE STILL FACING YOU...



BUT IT ISN'T LARRY, IS IT, ELAINE? IT'S SOME OF YOUR OLD HIGH SCHOOL CROWD...

HELEN! RUTH! HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE ALL OF YOU! IT'S BEEN MONTHS!

TOO MANY MONTHS! C'MON, HONEY, GRAB A BATHING SUIT AND COME ON OUT TO THE BEACH WITH US.

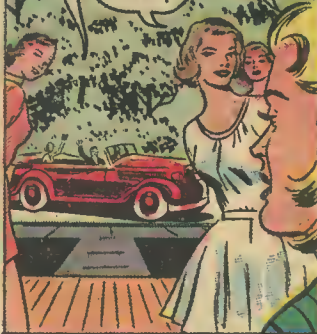


YOU AUTOMATICALLY START TO REFUSE...BUT AS YOU LOOK AT THE GIRLS AND THE FELLOWS WAITING OUTSIDE IN AN OLD JALOPY, YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND...

HI, ELAINE!

C'MON, IT'LL BE LIKE OLD TIMES!

WHY NOT? WHY SHOULDN'T I GO?

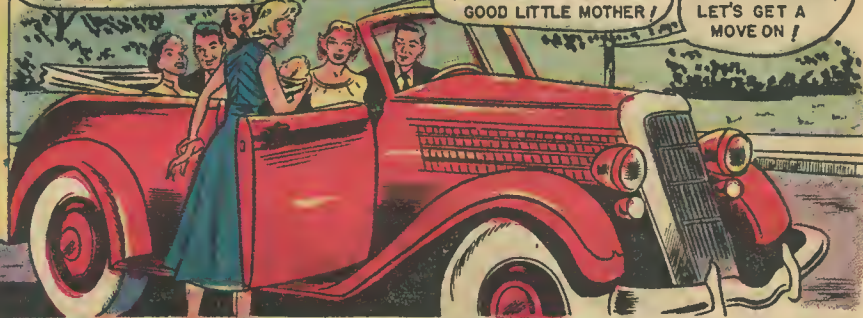


YOU RUN UPSTAIRS AND GET YOUR BEACH CLOTHES AND PICK UP THE BABY. YOU FEEL BETTER THAN YOU HAVE IN MONTHS...

WILL ONE OF YOU KEEP AN EYE ON BOBBIE WHEN I GO IN THE WATER?

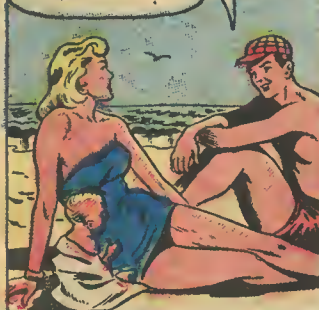
SURE, HONEY, I ALWAYS DID THINK I'D MAKE A GOOD LITTLE MOTHER!

HURRY UP, YOU DIZZY FEMALES, LET'S GET A MOVE ON!



YOU SPEND A MARVELOUS AFTERNOON, DON'T YOU, ELAINE? YOU FEEL CAREFREE AND YOUNG AGAIN... AND THE ATTENTIONS OF HANK NOLAN, AN EX-BEAU, DO A LOT TO RELIEVE YOUR INJURED EGO...

IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU PART OF THE GANG AGAIN, ELAINE! I WISH IT WERE FOR MORE THAN A DAY!

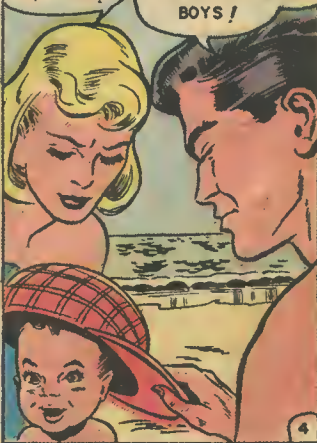


MAYBE IT WILL BE, HANK! THERE'S NO REASON WHY I CAN'T STILL SEE THE GANG! JUST BECAUSE I'M MARRIED DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO HAVE TO STAY COOPED UP LIKE A JAILBIRD!



OH, BOBBIE, HUSH! THE SUN'S GOOD FOR YOU!

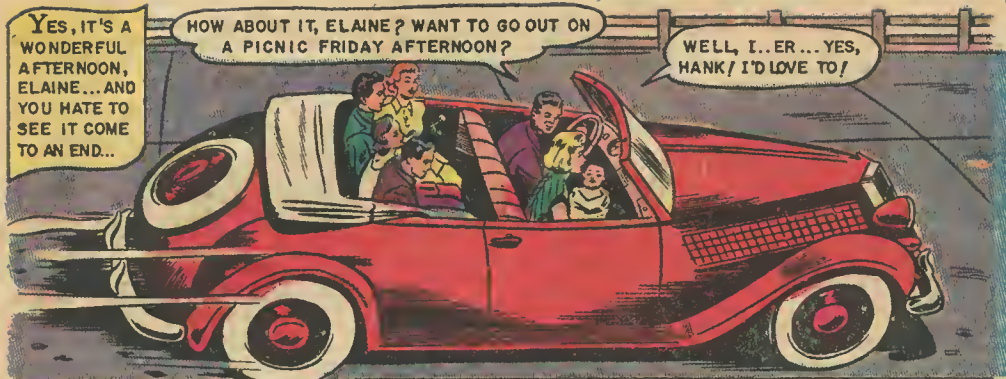
HERE, KID, BE A MAN! WEAR THIS... IT'LL MAKE YOU ONE OF THE BOYS!



YES, IT'S A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON, ELAINE... AND YOU HATE TO SEE IT COME TO AN END...

HOW ABOUT IT, ELAINE? WANT TO GO OUT ON A PICNIC FRIDAY AFTERNOON?

WELL, I... ER... YES, HANK! I'D LOVE TO!



WHEN YOU AND BOBBIE FINALLY GET HOME IT'S ALMOST DUSK... AND LARRY IS PACING THE FLOOR, WAITING FOR YOU...

FOR GOD'S SAKE, ELAINE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I WAS HALF CRAZY WITH WORRY!

I WAS AT THE BEACH/ I GOT SICK OF BEING COOPED UP HERE!



AT THE BEACH... WITH THE BABY/ ELAINE, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU... YOU CAN'T TAKE A SEVEN MONTH OLD BABY TO THE BEACH/ LOOK AT HIM... HE'S ALL SUN-BURNED!

OH, STOP BEING SUCH A KILL-JOY! HE'S PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT! A LITTLE SUN WON'T HURT HIM!



BUT LARRY DOESN'T LISTEN TO YOU. INSTEAD, HE HURRIES THE BABY UPSTAIRS AND CALLS A DOCTOR... AN HOUR LATER...

IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS, HOWEVER, I WOULDN'T ADVISE DOING IT AGAIN. A CHILD BOBBIE'S AGE SHOULDN'T BE EXPOSED TO SUCH LONG DOSES OF SUN!

DON'T WORRY, DOC, IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!



AND AFTER THE DOCTOR LEAVES...

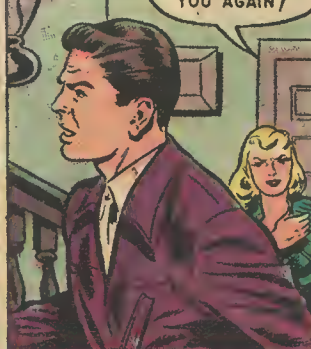
THIS DOES IT, ELAINE/ IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN YOU DIDN'T MAKE A GOOD WIFE, BUT I WON'T LET YOU ENOANGER MY SON'S LIFE/ I'M THROUGH!

THAT'S FINE WITH ME/ JUST FINE!



TOMORROW I'M TAKING THE BABY OVER TO MY MOTHER'S/ ANYTIME YOU WANT TO SEE HIM, HE'LL BE THERE! AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME, THAT'S WHERE I'LL BE TOO!

YOU... I DON'T CARE IF I NEVER LAY EYES ON YOU AGAIN!



BUT DESPITE YOUR ANGRY WORDS YOU FEEL A PANG OF FEAR AND DISMAY, DON'T YOU, ELAINE? SLEEP SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT NIGHT...

IT... IT'S ALL HAPPENED SO FAST... I... I'M LOSING THEM BOTH... LARRY AND BOBBIE...



BUT THE FOLLOWING MORNING WHEN LARRY AND BOBBIE LEAVE, YOU MAINTAIN A FRONT OF ANGER AND COLDNESS

GET IN TOUCH WITH ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, ELAINE. FOR THE TIME BEING WE'LL JUST CALL IT A "SEPARATION"!

CALL IT ANYTHING YOU WANT...BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE'RE FINISHED!

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW YOU'RE COMPLETELY FREE OF RESPONSIBILITY, AREN'T YOU, ELAINE? FREE TO HAVE THE GOOD TIME YOU WANTED SO DESPERATELY.

DURING THOSE WEEKS YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT ELAINE HARRIS, WIFE AND MOTHER...NOW YOU'RE ELAINE HARRIS, PLAYGIRL...

BUT SOMEHOW IT ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS YOU'D EXPECTED, IS IT? AS THE DAYS PASS, THE "GANG" SUDDENLY SEEMS TO APPEAR SHALLOW AND CHILDISH...

WHEW, I'M DEAD... FIVE PARTIES IN FIVE NIGHTS! YOU'RE WEARING ME OUT, HANK!

BETTER PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, BABY... TOMORROW NIGHT'S THE BIG DANCE OVER IN FRANKLIN.

IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL SUMMER! SO MUCH FUN!

POWER ROOM

AND DON'T FORGET, IT ISN'T OVER YET!

NEXT WEEK THERE'S THE BIG WEINER ROAST...

...AND AFTER THAT, THE BEACH PARTY.

FOR PETE SAKE DON'T THESE GIRLS EVER THINK OF ANYTHING EXCEPT FUN?

AND THAT NIGHT WHEN HANK BRINGS YOU HOME...

HEY, DID I TELL YOU THE BIG NEWS, BABY...IT'S ALMOST DEFINITE! I'M GOING TO MAKE THE FRESHMAN TEAM AT JACKSON U. WITH LUCK, NEXT YEAR I'LL BE THE REGULAR VARSITY CENTER!

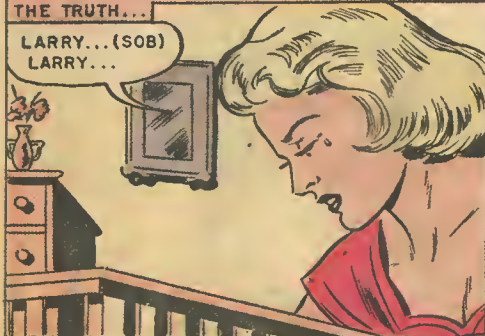
OH, ER...THAT'S NICE, HANK!

YOU SAY GOOD NIGHT TO HANK AND WALK INSIDE THE EMPTY LONELY HOUSE...FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHEN YOU REACH THE STAIRS LEADING INTO BOBBIE'S ROOM, YOU START TO CRY.

OH, DEAR LORD, (SOB) WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT (SOB) HAVE I DONE?

YOU LOOK DOWN INTO YOUR SON'S EMPTY CRIB AND YOUR MISERY BREAKS THROUGH IN A TORRENT OF SOBS... YOU'VE RUINED YOUR LIFE, HAVEN'T YOU, ELAINE? AND NOW, YOU NO LONGER CAN ESCAPE THE TRUTH...

LARRY...(SOB)
LARRY...



MINUTES LATER, TEARS STILL BLINDING YOU, YOU TURN AND WALK OUT OF THE NURSERY AND DOWN THE HALL TOWARD THE ROOM WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN YOURS AND LARRY'S...

I'VE (SOB) LOST
MY HUSBAND AND
MY SON... LOST
THEM FOREVER...



BUT AS YOU OPEN THE BEDROOM DOOR YOU SEE A SIGHT WHICH YOUR BRAIN ALMOST REFUSES TO BELIEVE...

LARRY! WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?
WHAT...

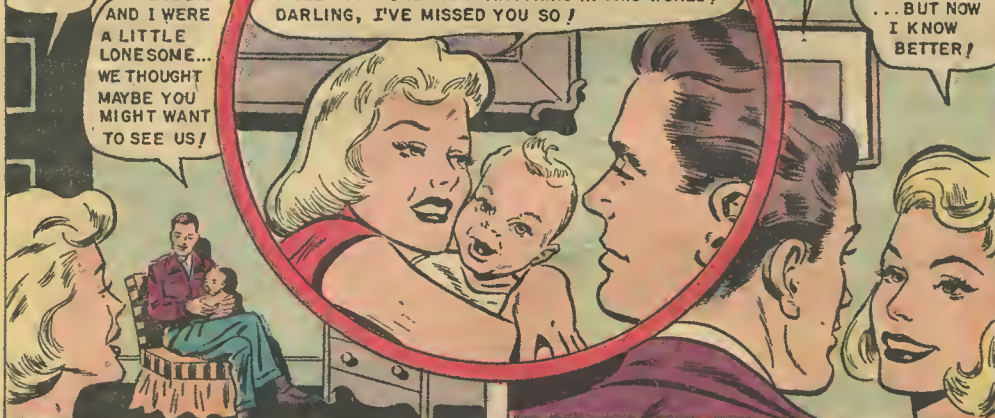
BOBBIE
AND I WERE
A LITTLE
LONESOME...
WE THOUGHT
MAYBE YOU
MIGHT WANT
TO SEE US!

YOU CAN SEE BY
LARRY'S FACE THAT HE'S
TESTING YOU... THAT, IN HIS OWN
WAY, HE'S TRYING TO FIND OUT IF YOU
HAVE CHANGED...

OH, YES, LARRY... I DO WANT TO SEE YOU! I WANT
TO-SEE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD!
DARLING, I'VE MISSED YOU SO!

ARE YOU SURE,
ELAINE? ARE
YOU SURE YOU
KNOW WHAT
YOU REALLY
WANT?

I'VE BEEN
SUCH A FOOL,
DARLING. I
GUESS I
THOUGHT
MARRIAGE
WAS A GAME
... BUT NOW
I KNOW
BETTER!



THE WORDS OF HUMILITY AND SHAME POUR FROM YOUR LIPS, ELAINE... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE, YOU'RE AN ADULT!

I DON'T WANT TO
BE A CHILD ANY-
MORE. I WANT TO
BE A REAL WIFE...
A REAL MOTHER!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW
I'VE PRAYED TO HEAR
THOSE WORDS, DARLING!



YES, ELAINE, NO LONGER ARE YOU A PLAYGIRL WIFE... NOW, AT LAST, YOU'RE A FULL-TIME WIFE!



THE END

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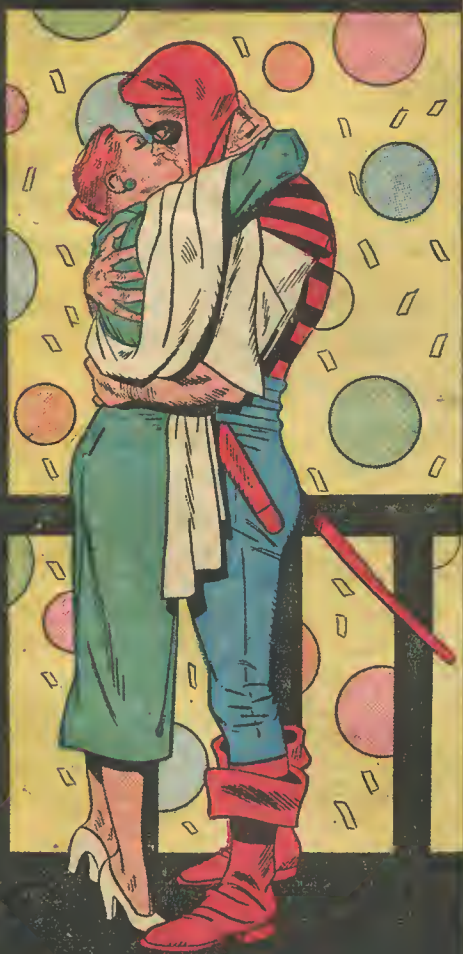
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CITY _____ **STATE** _____

My age is: _____

ALL MY LIFE I WANTED JUST ONE THING: *EXCITEMENT!* AND WHEN I
 FINALLY FOUND IT I DIDN'T KNOW THE PRICE I'D HAVE TO PAY WAS COMPLETE
HEARTBREAK! IT WAS ALMOST TOO LATE WHEN I REALIZED THE
 PENALTY FOR BEING A _____

THRILL♥SEEKER



I LONGED FOR ROMANCE, GLAMOUR, EXCITEMENT/ AND AT LAST, FOR A FEW DAYS I WAS GOING TO ESCAPE FROM THE HUMDRUM OF SMALL TOWN LIFE WHICH I HATED...

HEY, BRENDA, HEAR YOU'RE GOING AWAY NEXT WEEK/ WHERE TO/

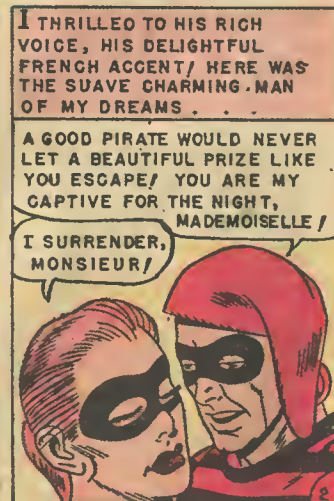
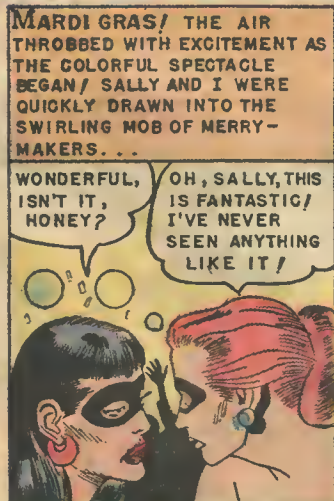
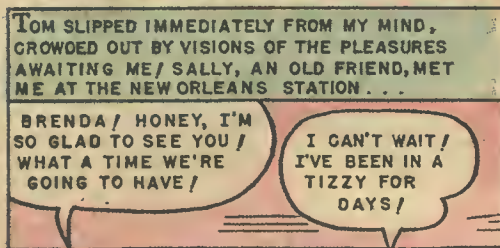
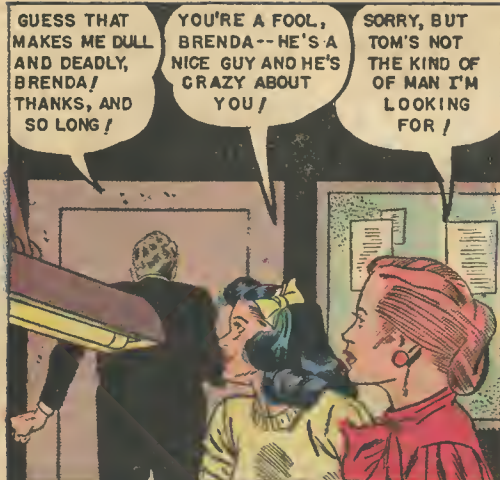
NEW ORLEANS/ FOR THE MAROI GRAS/ I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR A YEAR TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE-HORSE TOWN FOR A FEW DAYS /



HEY, HAMLIN'S A NICE LITTLE TOWN/ QUIET, MAYBE, BUT I LIKE IT/ YOU'LL BE GLAD TO GET BACK AFTER YOU'VE BEEN AWAY AWHILE. BE- SIDES, I'M GOING TO MISS YOU /

THANKS, TOM. YOU'RE SWEET. BUT I WANT TO LIVE A LITTLE / I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE IN HAMLIN AS BORED AND DULL AS EVERY- ONE ELSE / IT'S DEADLY /





EVEN BEFORE THAT GAY, EXOTIC NIGHT ENDED IN A TINY CAFE IN THE FRENCH QUARTER, I KNEW I WAS IN LOVE WITH THIS TALL STRANGER.

... I MUST SEE YOU AGAIN... TOMORROW NIGHT !

THIS IS CRAZY ! MARDI GRAS INSANITY ! BUT WHY NOT ?

I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT HIM BUT HIS FIRST NAME...YET THE NEXT NIGHT, I AGAIN PLUNGED INTO THE MAELSTROM OF REVELRY WITH HIM

ANDRÉ, I WISH THIS NIGHT COULD GO ON FOREVER !

IT WILL, CHERIE ! IN MY MEMORIES ! I WILL TREASURE IT !

AGAIN THE FRENZY OF FESTIVAL TIME SUBSIDED AS DAWN CAME...

BRENDA, I LOVE YOU !

OH, MY DARLING, I'M SO GLAD I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST !

THE THIRD NIGHT OF MARDI GRAS ! ANDRÉ AND I CLUNG TOGETHER THROUGH THE WILD ROUND OF PARTIES UNTIL

ANDRÉ, THIS IS THE LAST NIGHT OF MARDI GRAS ! TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT WE UNMASK AND THEN... BACK TO GRIM REALITY !

BUT, MY SWEET, LOVE SHOULD NOT WITHER BECAUSE IT LACKS A ROMANTIC SETTING !

I WAS NO LONGER AFRAID AS MIDNIGHT DREW NEAR ! OURS WAS NOT JUST A MARDI GRAS ROMANCE... BUT THEN SUDDENLY, I TURNED AND I WAS ALONE .

ANDRÉ ! ANDRÉ ! WHERE ARE YOU ? I MUST FIND HIM ! IT IS ALMOST .

I FOUND HIM ! AND MY LOVELY DREAMS CRUMBLLED IN MY HEART AS I SAW .

ANDRÉ !

ANDRÉ, MY DREAM COME TRUE, HAD TAKEN MY LOVE AND FLUNG IT ASIDE LIGHTLY/ I LASHED OUT WITH WORDS TORN FROM AN EMOTION STRANGLED THROAT.

AND I TRUSTED YOU/
BELIEVED YOU LOVED
ME AS I LOVE
YOU/ YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT A
... BUT A GIGOLO!
OH, I HATE
YOU!



I FLED AS MY TEARS BEGAN TO FLOW... AND THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT.

TIME TO UNMASK/ I'LL NEVER
KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE BUT IT'S
BETTER THIS WAY/ I'LL HAVE
TO FORGET HIM... FORGET
MY LOVE FOR HIM!



IF HE CARED HE COULD HAVE FOLLOWED
ME/ BUT...(SOB)... HE DOESN'T CARE/ HE
WAS JUST PLAYING WITH ME/ OH, WHAT
A FOOL I'VE BEEN/ I-I'M...(SOB)... GOING
HOME!



HAMLIN WAS A QUIET REFUGE FOR MY TORN
AND BLEEDING HEART/ FOR WEEKS I WAS
AN EMPTY SHELL THROBBING WITH MISERY
AND PAIN.

SMILE, BRENDA/
YOU'VE BEEN
DOWN IN THE
DUMPS EVER
SINCE YOU CAME
BACK FROM NEW
ORLEANS/ HOW
ABOUT A DATE!

TOM, WE'VE BEEN
RUNNING THROUGH
THIS DIALOGUE FOR
OVER A YEAR NOW!
I SHOULD THINK
YOU'D BE TIRED OF
THE SAME OLD
ANSWERS!



BUT SUDDENLY, IT WAS I
WHO WAS TIRED OF THE SAME
OLD ANSWERS.

BUT WHY NOT?
I'VE MOPED
LONG ENOUGH/
MAYBE IF I
WENT OUT AND
HAD SOME FUN...

WAIT, TOM/ PICK
ME UP AT EIGHT
AT MY HOUSE!

WH-WHAT?
DID I
HEAR
RIGHT?
IT'S A
DATE
BRENDA!



TOM WAS A COURTEOUS,
ATTENTIVE ESCORT BUT
ALTHOUGH I TRIED HARD TO
HAVE A GOOD TIME.

ANDRÉ, ANDRÉ/
WHY COULDN'T
THINGS
HAVE BEEN
DIFFERENT?

WHAT,
TOM?

YOU SEE,
BRENDA,
YOU CAN
HAVE FUN
IN
HAMLIN!



THE NIGHT WAS FILLED WITH
MEMORIES.

OH, ANDRÉ, WILL I
EVER FORGET YOU?



BUT I SAW TOM AGAIN AND AGAIN / I WAS LONELY AND THE LOVE HE FELT FOR ME WAS COMFORTING--- BUT I COULDN'T FORGET ANDRÉ :

DARLING, I'VE LOVED YOU FOR A LONG TIME / COULDN'T WE . . .

PLEASE, TOM / I'M NOT READY YET TO LOVE ANYONE / PLEASE BE PATIENT / I HAVE TO BE SURE !

AND THEN ONE DAY . . .

A MASKED COSTUME BALL ON NEW-YEAR'S EVE / BUT, TOM / I DON'T HAVE A COSTUME !

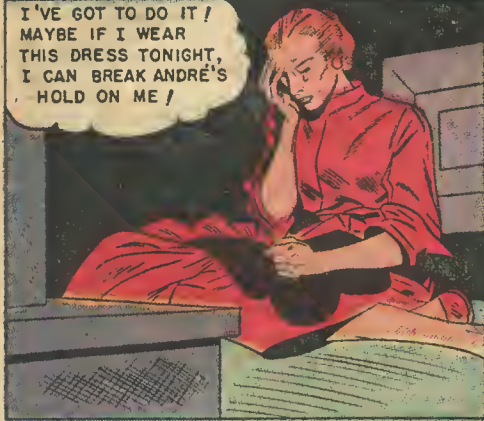
WHAT DID YOU WEAR AT MARDI GRAS ? WE HAVE TO GO, I ACCEPTED FOR BOTH OF US !

NO, NO / NOT THAT / I COULDN'T BEAR A COSTUME BALL, NOT IN THAT DRESS / NOT WITHOUT... WITHOUT ANDRÉ !



BUT NEW YEAR'S EVE CAME, AND AS I STARTED TO DRESS FOR THE BALL . . .

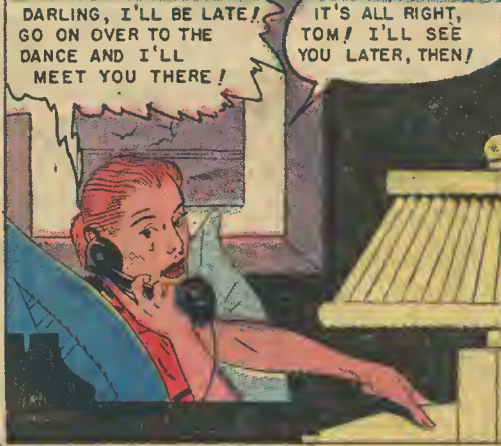
I'VE GOT TO DO IT / MAYBE IF I WEAR THIS DRESS TONIGHT, I CAN BREAK ANDRÉ'S HOLD ON ME !



AND THEN THE PHONE RANG . . .

DARLING, I'LL BE LATE ! GO ON OVER TO THE DANCE AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE !

IT'S ALL RIGHT, TOM / I'LL SEE YOU LATER, THEN !



AS I PUSHED THROUGH THE CROWDED BALLROOM, I WAS MILES AND MONTHS AWAY, CAUGHT IN THE MERRIMENT AND HEARTBREAK OF MARDI GRAS TIME IN NEW ORLEANS

IF ONLY IT COULD HAPPEN OVER AGAIN / JUST TO HAVE A LOVE LIKE THAT ONCE MORE !



SUDDENLY A STRONG ARM SWUNG ME AROUND AND

THE BEAUTIFUL LADY WILL DANCE WITH ME, YES ?

ANDRÉ !



I WAS IN ECSTASY AS WE
SWEEPED AROUND THE FLOOR,
AND THEN . . .

HOW-HOW DID
YOU FIND ME?
WHY DID YOU--
OH, WHAT
DIFFERENCE
DOES IT MAKE/
DARLING, I'VE
MISSED YOU.
SO...!

DID YOU
THINK YOU
COULD
EVER
ESCAPE
ME / YOU'RE
MINE,
BRENDA /

BUT AS ANDRÉ LEANED
DOWN TO KISS ME . . .

MY
DEAREST,
LOVELY,
BRENDA!

OH, NO / YOU
MUSTN'T / I'D
ALMOST
FORGOTTEN
TOM / HE'LL BE
HERE ANY
MOMENT /
HE . . .

TOM? WHO
IS HE? YOU'RE
IN LOVE WITH
SOMEONE
ELSE / NO
YOU CAN'T
BE, YOU'RE
MINE /

NO, NO /
LEAVE ME
ALONE,
ANDRÉ / I
DON'T WANT
YOUR KIND
OF LOVE /
OURS WAS A
FALSE, HOLIDAY
KIND OF
LOVE /

I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE MY OWN WORDS . . .
BUT SUDDENLY, I KNEW . . .

WHO IS THIS MAN,
TOM? DOES HE
MAKE YOU FEEL
LIKE I DO? DO
YOU LOVE
HIM?

YES / YES / I DO
LOVE HIM! HE'S
STABLE AND GOOD
AND FAITHFUL /
IT--IT'S ALL OVER
WITH, ANDRÉ / GO
AWAY /

A CLOCK TOLLED MIDNIGHT AS I TURNED
AWAY SUDDENLY STRONG WITH THE REALI-
ZATION OF MY OWN TRUE FEELINGS . . .

WAIT, DARLING / IT IS TIME
TO UNMASK / TO APPEAR
AS WE REALLY ARE /

TOM / THIS
IS A
TRICK / HOW
DID YOU KNOW
ABOUT
ANDRÉ ?

I WAS ANDRÉ, DARLING /
I WANTED TO PROVE TO YOU
THAT ROMANCE AND LOVE
ARE NOT THE SAME / AND
I HAD TO BE SURE THAT
IT WAS ME YOU LOVED,
NOT THE ROMANTIC
CHEAT, ANDRÉ!

WHAT A FOOL I'D
BEEN / AS I MELTED
IN TOM'S ARMS I
KNEW THAT I'D HAD
LOVE AND ROMANCE
ALL ALONG AND HAD
BEEN TOO BLIND TO
SEE IT / IN THE COM-
FORT OF TOM'S LOVE,
I LEARNED THE REAL
MEANING OF TRUE
LOVE /

THE TURNING OF THE WORM

BY DIANE LOWE

A thick drizzle filled the murky air. The famous mud and slime of Korea was at its worst. Dead tired and dirty faced I slogged through the sticky slime, listening to the awful moans of the wounded boys, I thought longingly of the clean, smooth sidewalks of my hometown—solid under one's feet. Romance and love seemed something only for fairy books.

Covered with mud, my once blonde curls plastered damply on my cheeks, I returned with a load of wounded—and then came face to face, for the first time, with a trim, clean figure, the new medic, Capt. John Brent. It was strange that I, Vicky Carroll, should suddenly think of what a mess I looked. Suddenly, I longed to be clean, trim, looking my best.

No there's nothing romantic about life in Korea. It's dreary hard work—bloody and heart-breaking. I had volunteered as a nurse because I wanted to use my training where it would serve the greatest good. Romance was farthest from my mind. In fact when I observed how most of the nurses primped for their infrequent dates and fluttered about like debutantes on their evenings off, I felt only amused contempt. But that was before Capt. Brent arrived at our post.

When the tall, lean officer was introduced to the staff of nurses, I couldn't help but smile at the exchange of glances. This time I really couldn't blame them. Even I could feel a sense of excitement in the presence of a winning, magnetic personality, not yet touched by Korean squalor and dirt and blood. The combination of boyish charm and quiet authority was just the quality that makes susceptible females "ga-ga."

At dinner that evening the whole subject of conversation was the new doctor, and I was annoyed with myself for being so interested—and so disturbed. That night, exhausted after a strenuous day, I looked in my little mirror and studied the tired lines around my eyes. "Just fatigue lines," I assured myself. "A little rest, and they'll go away." A mental image of John Brent was looking at me from the mirror, "Wh-why do I think of him now?"

I wondered. "And why so concerned about my looks?"

I had to laugh at myself. Was I going soft and romantic after mocking the other girls all this time? Not exactly, but I was a girl and I still reacted to an exceptionally appealing male. But romance? *Ridiculous!* None of us knew anything about Capt. Brent—he might be a perfect monster with a glamorous exterior. Besides, I wouldn't stand a chance against all those experts I'd been observing all these months. I hadn't been on a date for so long that I wouldn't know how to act. In the looks department, back in the States I knew I wasn't so bad. All I needed now, I thought was a rest, some cold-cream and powder and lipstick—and a good shampoo. My figure used to rate whistles at home. Maybe it could still look good in a real dress.

This sudden preoccupation with a handsome male irritated me. I plunged into my work with added zeal to remove the frivolous thoughts that had been distracting me, and to prove to myself that work was my real purpose here—work with the wounded and ill.

But matters got worse with me. The more I worked with John Brent and saw his skill, his understanding of the wounded boys so far from home and family, the more admirable, the more desirable he became.

He constantly requested to have "Miss Carroll" assist him and the other nurses teased me about it. "Now we know why you're so tireless, Vicky," Grace Henry said one day in mocking tones. "You wanted to be indispensable to Capt. Brent. And you certainly are!" I also heard some of the stage whispers, "Lucky that Vicky's so plain. He'd never date her." I found a strange comfort in the next remark: "If Vicky ever started to think about her appearance, I bet she could be attractive to a man."

That remark was encouraging, but I had no time to think about myself. The grim tasks of war filled my days and nights. At the end of a job I'd fall into bed too tired to think of my looks—but not too tired to dream of Capt. John Brent. Although his manner toward me was always professional, doctor to nurse, soldier to soldier, it was comforting to ab-

serve that the other nurses made no progress with him either. They were good nurses, and conscientious, but they had their lighter moments—and men played a big role at that time. One or two were exceptionally pretty, and could twist a man round their little finger. But Capt. Brent was impervious to their wiles and completely indifferent to me.

The silent competition for Capt. Brent came to a head in an unexpected manner. One early morning, there was a knock on each door, bringing us nurses sleepy-eyed to the pitting room. The colonel, together with Capt. Brent and some other officers, faced us.

"Sorry to awaken you, ladies," the C.O. began, "but we need volunteers for an urgent mission. Two airmen crashed on a small atoll ten miles offshore. Capt. Brent is going there and needs a nurse to help. He'd like Miss Carroll to volunteer, if she will. This is not an order, as the mission is highly dangerous."

Naturally, I went. A tiny motor launch let us off at the atoll with instructions to flash a green light if it was safe to return and pick up the two wounded—if they were still alive and then us—if the Gooks weren't around. The launch would then come back for the two of us upon the second signal—since it was small and had to move slowly and cautiously in these dangerous waters.

Capt. Brent and I found the airmen, badly hurt, but alive. Rapidly, in the dim light of a foggy dawn, we tended them. It was a tense and gruelling experience, but Capt. Brent and I worked in complete accord and understanding, as we always had done. Twice, he looked at me and smiled gently. I smiled in return. He could never guess how my heart throbbed: Funny, in all the blood and dirt of war I had fallen deeply in love with John Brent. It was painful to realize how unaware he was of me—except as an aid—a nurse.

Whispering, John instructed me to stand on the designated spot close to shore and flash the green signal left there. The two airmen could be picked up now. When the small launch arrived the wounded were placed carefully on board. After speaking to Capt. Brent, the helmsman shoved off.

John looked at me a moment then told me that the boat would return for us—unless it became too dangerous. But we would wait till nightfall and then signal with the green lantern if we were sure it was safe; the red if any Reds turned up. If they did we would have to hide.

Those hours of daylight spent on the little atoll sped away. John and I talked softly, laughing softly and huddled together several times when we thought we heard enemy boats approach, fearfully close to our hiding place—and relaxed once again when the sounds drifted into the distance. At nine o'clock that night he said, "Vicky, I think it's safe now to signal them to come and get us. We can flash the green light now and I want you to know you're a wonderful girl. This island adventure—was—well, you made it a pleasure." John's words thrilled me deeply, but I felt a pang of disappointment. It had ended too soon—before—before—anything could happen. Now they'd come and take us away—and break the spell. I was desperate for this man I didn't want to leave.

But there was nothing that could be done. "Yes, John. I feel that way, too," I answered. We took to using each other's first names quite naturally. "I'll run down and flash the green light," I offered. "You can cover me if any Gooks show up. I know just where it is."

Then I went back and we waited for the little launch. John put a firm arm around my shoulders—"Let's stay close, Vicky. We'll keep warm. Say, it's eleven o'clock! Wonder why they don't come for us. Maybe the enemy's still lurking."

"That's a terrible thought," I replied.

I felt a pressure of his strong fingers as the tightened on my arm. "That doesn't sound like the brave Nurse Carroll—Are you afraid?"

Turning toward him, I looked deep into his eyes before answering. Then "No—not with you, John," I said softly.

We were very close. His head moved toward mine and his lips gently touched mine. Impatiently, I put my arms around him and our kiss became deep, thrilling. Now, I knew John was in love with me—all mine.

"You know, don't you, that I'm in love with you, darling," John said, huskily.

"How wonderful," I murmured, lost in unbelievable ecstasy.

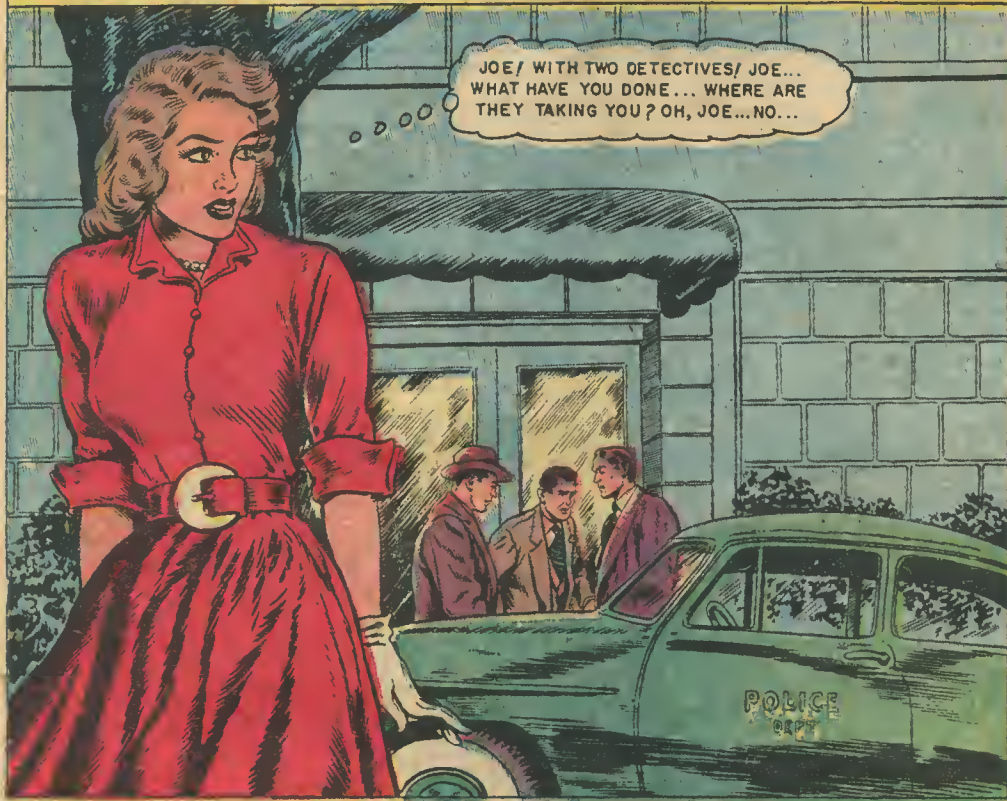
"It's a miracle that they didn't come for us—we've had time to discover each other," John gloated.

Some day I shall tell him about that miracle—that I had flashed the RED light. I had played with danger but now, I was ready to flash the green one.

THE END

KNEW IT WAS A GAMBLE... A CALCULATED RISK/ MY FATHER, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE PAROLE BOARD, STRONGLY DISAPPROVED. MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS SECRETARY ON THE PAROLE BOARD STAFF WARNED ME AGAINST IT. I KNEW I WAS LETTING MYSELF IN FOR GRIEF... HEARTBREAK... WHEN

I fell in LOVE with an EX-CON



JOE/ WITH TWO DETECTIVES/ JOE...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE... WHERE ARE
THEY TAKING YOU? OH, JOE...NO...

I WAS TOO SHOCKED TO CALL OUT/ THEY WERE TAKING JOE AWAY AGAIN. I'D LIVED IN SUCH FEAR OF THIS MOMENT... AND NOW IT WAS HAPPENING/ SUDDENLY I FELT DIZZY... SICK/ I MADE A DASH FOR HOME...

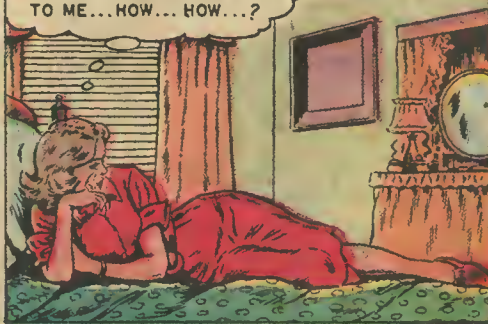
GETCHA EVENIN' PAPERS...
READ ALL ABOUT IT...

OH, JOE... HOW
COULD YOU... HOW
COULD YOU...?



THE BIG BLACK HEADLINES... JOE'S PICTURE ON THE FRONT PAGE... THE DISGRACE FOR HIM... THE SHAME FOR ME/ I NEEDED NO PAPER... I WANTED ONLY TO BE ALONE... TO THINK... TO WONDER WHY...

EVERYBODY WARNED ME.. (SOB)
... I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED!
HOW DID I LET THIS HAPPEN
TO ME... HOW... HOW...?



YES...HOW? IT ALL BEGAN MONTHS AGO AT A ROUTINE MEETING OF THE PAROLE BOARD AT THE STATE PRISON.

HERE'S THE NEXT CASE: NO. 461970, JOSEPH FENTON.

FENTON, EH? I SEEM TO REMEMBER THIS MAN, WARDEN... LONG JUVENILE DELINQUENCY RECORD... THEN CAR THEFT... NOW THIS CONVICTION... RIGHT?



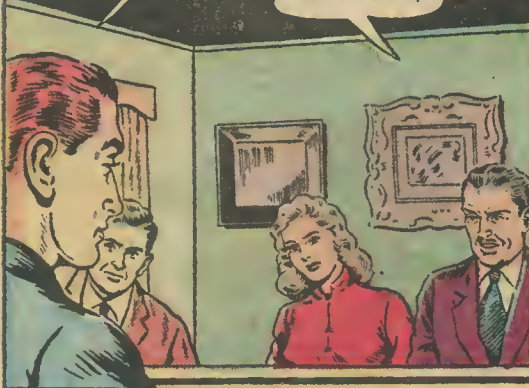
THAT'S RIGHT, SIR / BUT THE MAN IS TRYING HARD TO REHABILITATE HIMSELF. YOU'LL NOTICE HIS BACKGROUND, MR. CHAIRMAN... HE WAS ONLY A KID WHEN...

YES...YES...AN OLD STORY / SLUM NEIGHBORHOOD... A BROKEN HOME... WENT TO WORK AT 14... THEN STARTED GETTING INTO TROUBLE!



WILL YOU SEE THIS MAN, SIR? I THINK HE DESERVES YOUR ATTENTION!

ALL RIGHT... SEND FOR HIM. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR... TO GIVE THESE FELLOWS A CHANCE IF THEY DESERVE IT!



I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM. HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A CONVICT. ABOUT 26, HE WAS CLEAN CUT... NICE LOOKING. HE SEEMED INTELLIGENT... FORTHRIGHT... SINCERE. I BEGAN HOPING FOR HIM!

ACCORDING TO YOUR TRIAL RECORD, FENTON... YOU ADMITTED THE CRIME BUT CLAIMED YOU WERE FORCED INTO IT. DO YOU STICK TO THAT STORY?



I DO, SIR / WHATEVER YOU MAY THINK, IT'S THE TRUTH! I WAS TRYING TO GO STRAIGHT... BUT THE OLD GANG WOULDN'T LET ME... THEY MADE ME GO ON THE JOB ON WHICH I WAS CAUGHT!



I BELIEVED HIM! IT WAS IN HIS EYES... HIS FACE... HIS VOICE / THAT EVENING, BACK AT HOME...

DAD THAT FENTON BOY SEEMED SO SINCERE / DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE PAROLED?

CONNIE, DEAR, THESE MEN ARE GOOD ACTORS... AS FOR FENTON... WHO KNOWS?



AS THE DAYS WENT BY I FOUND MYSELF THINKING MORE AND MORE ABOUT JOE FENTON...

CONNIE, HERE'S THE MONTH'S PAROLE LIST. HAVE IT PROCESSED AND SENT OUT AT ONCE.

JOE FENTON'S ON THE LIST / OH, I'M SO HAPPY FOR HIM!



I KNEW JOE WOULD HAVE TO REPORT TO MY OFFICE ON MONDAY AND I WAS WAITING FOR HIM EAGERLY...

YOU'LL STOP BY HERE AFTER YOU'VE SEEN THE CHAIRMAN, MR. FENTON. THERE ARE SOME DETAILS TO CLEAR UP.

CERTAINLY, MISS NORRIS.



IT WAS PAST NOON WHEN HE RETURNED...

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO MAKE OUT THE FORMS WE'LL NEED. I HOPE EVERYTHING WENT OKAY INSIDE.

YES, IT DID. MISS NORRIS... I WONDER... COULD YOU GO TO LUNCH WITH ME... WE COULD TALK THINGS OVER THERE. I'M SORT OF HUNGRY. WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT?



I'D NEVER FIGURED ON THIS. LUNCH WITH AN EX-CON / I WAS DOUBTFUL ... BUT HIS WARM SMILE AND HIS SINCERE MANNER WON ME OVER. I ACCEPTED.

I FIRST GOT INTO TROUBLE AS A KID. I LIVED IN A BAD NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE. NOBODY'S FAULT BUT MY OWN. BEFORE I COULD STRAIGHTEN OUT I STOLE THE CAR...



I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO TELL ME HIS STORY. BUT HE DID IT SO HONESTLY, HIS EYES SEARCHING MINE... AS THOUGH SEEKING SUPPORT AND COMFORT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ALL THIS, JOE.

BUT I WANT TO... I WANT YOU TO KNOW. WELL, I DID SIX MONTHS FOR STEALING THE CAR. THEN...



JOE FINISHED HIS STORY AS WE WALKED BACK TO MY OFFICE...

I WAS AFRAID OF LOSING ALL I HAD. SO I WENT ON THE JOB... WAS CAUGHT RED-HANDED!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW, JOE. YOU'LL MAKE GOOD NOW. I KNOW YOU WILL!



THE BOARD GOT JOE A JOB DOING CONSTRUCTION WORK ON STATE ROADS. HE BEGAN GOING TO SCHOOL AGAIN, STUDYING ENGINEERING. AND HE REPORTED FAITHFULLY EVERY WEEK.

IS MY FAVORITE LUNCHEON DATE HUNGRY YET?

FAMISHED! I'LL BE READY IN JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES, JOE.



FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS THAT'S AS FAR AS IT WENT. AND THEN, ONE DAY, JOE ASKED ME FOR A DATE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CONNIE? CAN'T YOU GO OUT WITH ME? IS IT BECAUSE OF MY PAST?

OH, JOE... I DON'T MEAN TO HESITATE, YOU KNOW THAT. YES, JOE... I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU!



AND SO I WENT OUT WITH JOE THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY NIGHT. DAD WAS STUNNED WHEN MY ESCORT CALLED, BUT HE SAID NOTHING UNTIL I GOT HOME.

I DON'T WANT MY DAUGHTER GOING OUT WITH EX-CONVICTS. YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM!

BUT DAD... HE'S PAID HIS DEBT TO SOCIETY. ISN'T IT YOUR JOB TO HELP SUCH MEN RETURN TO NORMAL LIVES?



IT CERTAINLY IS... BUT I DON'T WANT YOU INVOLVED. YOU'RE NOT TO SEE THIS FENTON AGAIN, CONNIE!

DAD, YOU'RE NOT FAIR TO HIM. HE'S TRYING TO MAKE GOOD! I'M SORRY... BUT IF I CAN HELP HIM BY GOING OUT WITH HIM I'M GOING TO DO IT!



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER DEFIED MY FATHER. WE HAD A BITTER QUARREL. BUT ON MONDAY, WHEN JOE REPORTED, WE HAD LUNCH TOGETHER.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO QUIET! WELL... I UNDERSTAND, CONNIE. I... GUESS I WON'T BE SEEING YOU AGAIN!

YES, JOE... YOU WILL! IT'S NOT RIGHT... BUT I'LL HAVE TO MEET YOU IN SECRET. I WANT TO SEE YOU!



AND SO WE SAW EACH OTHER... OFTEN! WE DIDN'T LIKE THE SECRET FURTIVENESS OF OUR MEETINGS. BUT SOMEHOW THEY DREW US CLOSER AND CLOSER TOGETHER... UNTIL...

CONNIE... CONNIE, I LOVE YOU!

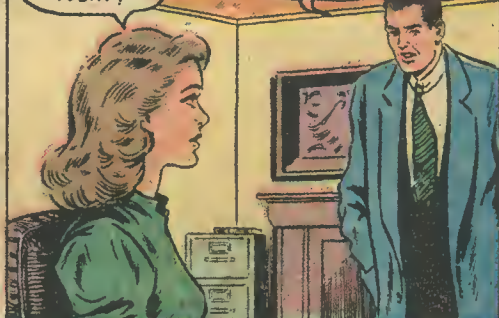
OH, JOE... JOE... I LOVE YOU, TOO!



JOE WAS SETTLING BEAUTIFULLY INTO AN HONEST LIFE AGAIN. HIS PAROLE REPORTS WERE EXCELLENT. SHOULD I TELL DAD I WAS SEEING HIM? ONE DAY...

WHY... JOE! THIS IS THURSDAY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE TODAY?

YOUR FATHER CALLED ME IN. THAT'S ALL I KNOW!



WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT? WHEN JOE FINALLY CAME OUT HE RUSHED RIGHT BY ME...

JOE... WHAT IS IT? TELL ME!

SORRY, CONNIE! I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY!



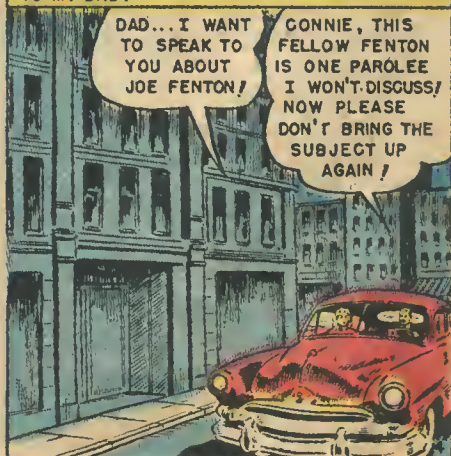
FROM THAT MOMENT ON, JOE STOPPED SEEING ME. I COULD ONLY GUESS AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. DAD MUST HAVE FOUND OUT I'D BEEN SEEING JOE. THEN HE'D CRACKED DOWN WITH ALL HIS AUTHORITY. WHAT ELSE COULD BE THE REASON?



THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO... SPEAK TO MY DAD.

DAD... I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT JOE FENTON!

CONNIE, THIS FELLOW FENTON IS ONE PAROLEE I WON'T DISCUSS! NOW PLEASE DON'T BRING THE SUBJECT UP AGAIN!



AND THAT WAS THAT / DAD WOULD SAY NOTHING MORE / AND AS FOR JOE... HE REPORTED ON MONDAY MORNINGS... ALSO SAID NOTHING... AND ABRUPTLY LEFT. NO MORE LUNCHEON DATES... NO NOTHING...



A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE CONFERENCE WITH TOP POLICE OFFICIALS WAS HELD. I SAT IN AS SECRETARY.

BY CHECKING ON OUR PAROLEES' ACTIVITIES, INSPECTOR, WE'RE LEARNING THAT IT'S PINKY ADAMS' GANG THAT'S BEHIND THESE RACKETS!

FINE, NORRIS / WE'LL ASSIGN MORE MEN TO WORK WITH YOU. WE'LL MOVE IN AS SOON AS WE'RE ALL SET!



FROM THAT MOMENT ON, MY THOUGHTS WERE IN A WHIRL...

THE PINKY ADAMS GANG... THE GANG JOE WAS MIXED UP WITH / HIS PAROLE REPORTS... WAS HE FOOLING US... I DON'T SEE HIM ANY MORE... IS HE IN WITH THE MOB AGAIN?



I FELT SICK... EMPTY... HURT. WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO JOE? DAD WOULDN'T TALK. THEN, ONE EVENING...

GONNIE, VIC HENRY WANTS TO SEE YOU. WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT WITH HIM? HE'S GOING PLACES, THAT ASSISTANT D.A.!

YES... WHY NOT? HE'S SO CONCEITED HE'LL TELL ME ANYTHING. MAYBE I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT JOE!



THE NEXT DAY VIC HENRY CALLED FOR SATURDAY NIGHT. HE TOOK ME TO THE 7-11 CLUB, THE FASTEST PLACE IN TOWN.

A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE LOOK VERY SUCCESSFUL, VIC. DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THEM?

I SURE DO, GONNIE--BUT HALF OF THEM ARE GOING TO LAND IN JAIL BEFORE LONG / LIKE PINKY ADAMS AND HIS GANG OVER THERE!



THEY DON'T KNOW IT, OF COURSE... BUT I'LL HAVE MY CASE READY AGAINST THEM SOON. I'LL SHOW THIS TOWN A THING OR TWO.

VIC... ISN'T... ISN'T THAT JOE FENTON WITH THEM?



JOE / JOE AT THE 7-11 CLUB... WITH PINKY ADAMS / HOW COULD HE... IF IT WEREN'T TRUE?

SMALL TIME PUNK, THIS FENTON. I PUT HIM AWAY BEFORE... I'LL DO IT AGAIN.

WHY... ER... HELLO, GONNIE. I'D... ER... LIKE YOU TO MEET TRIXIE BENNETT!



SO IT WAS TRUE / JOE WAS BACK WITH THE MOB. I FELT ILL. I WANTED TO GO HOME, THEN, IN THE PARKING LOT...

PRETTY SOON, TRIXIE, I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF DOUGH. THEN YOU. AND ME ARE GONNA DO SOME HIGH FLINGIN'!

GEE, JOE... I SURE GO FOR A GUY LIKE YOU!



I TRIED DESPERATELY TO FORGET. BUT NEXT MONDAY MORNING, WHEN JOE FAILED TO REPORT, I KNEW I STILL CARED!

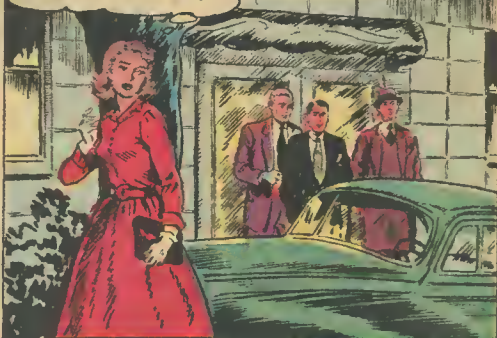
BUT ARE YOU SURE HE DIDN'T CHECK IN THIS MORNING? MAYBE HE'S ON A DIFFERENT PROJECT.

NO, MISS. JOE FENTON HASN'T BEEN ON THE JOB FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS!



I WAS SICK WITH WORRY NOW. SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED! I KNEW I STILL LOVED HIM. I RACED TO HIS HOTEL...

IT'S TRUE! YOU'RE MIXED UP WITH THE GANG AGAIN! YOU'RE GOING BACK TO PRISON! OH, NO...NO, JOE!



HEART BROKEN, I DASHED HOME. I SAW THE BIG HEADLINES... JOE'S PICTURE ON THE FRONT PAGE. I HAD TO SEE NO MORE. I CRIED AND CRIED UNTIL DAD CAME HOME...

CONNIE, DEAR...WHAT'S THE MATTER?

YOU...(SOB--SOB) YOU KNOW WELL ENOUGH... IT'S... IT'S...(SOB--SOB--SOB) JOE!



CONNIE... DID YOU READ THE PAPERS? LOOK!

DAILY STAR
HELPS POLICE IN
CAPTURE OF MOB

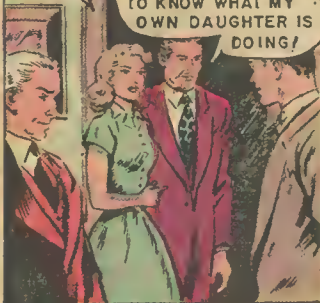
JOE FENTON ONCE BETRAYED BY THE PINKY ADAMS WORKED AS UNDERWORLD POLICE AGENT AND PRODUCED EVIDENCE RESULTING IN MOBS ARREST.



I LOOKED... AND A WHOLE NEW WORLD BEGAN.

OH, DAD...DAD... DID YOU KNOW WE'D BEEN SEEING EACH OTHER... AGAINST YOUR WISHES?

OF, COURSE I KNEW! I'VE BEEN IN POLICE WORK TOO LONG NOT TO KNOW WHAT MY OWN DAUGHTER IS DOING!



HE'S BEEN WORKING WITH THE OFFICIALS ALL ALONG, CONNIE. OF COURSE, WE COULDN'T LET ANYBODY KNOW IT!

YOU'VE GOT A FINE FELLOW, CONNIE. HE'S GOT QUITE A FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM!



THERE'S NO FUTURE WITHOUT YOU IN IT, CONNIE. I WANT YOU ALWAYS.

AND I WANT YOU, JOE... ALWAYS AND FOREVER!



THE END

LEARN TO DANCE

IN YOUR OWN HOME... in **1** WEEK... or
DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

**Sensational New "Tell-and-Show" Way
 Enables You To Learn A Complete,
 New Dance Each Evening!**

**NOW
 DANCE
 THE**

This new speed-method makes learning to dance so simple, quick and easy — you will amaze your friends in one single week! You'll be able to say "good-bye" to loneliness and "hello" to fun and romance. Of course, if you enjoy being a wallflower this easy, quick, self-teaching method is not for you. But, if you want to get out of your rut and start living — send for this Complete Dance Instruction Course on our **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!** You have nothing to lose, and popularity and good times to gain, so act now! For your promptness, we include without extra charge, a wonderful book of Square Dances.



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WALTZ

FOX-TROT

RHUMBA

SAMBA

CONGA

TANGO

LINDY

JITTERBUG

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Pickwick Co., Dept. **MC0**
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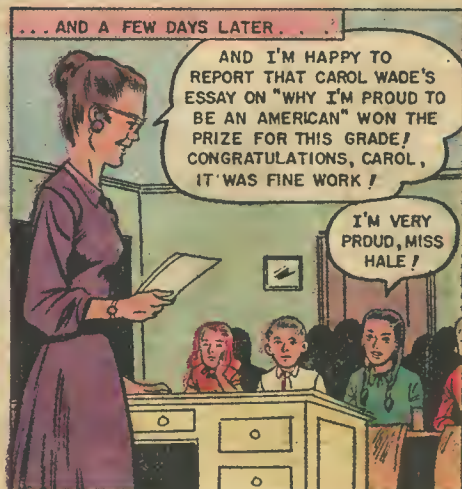
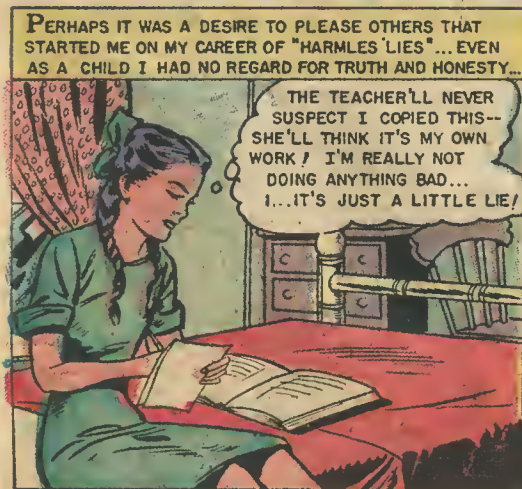
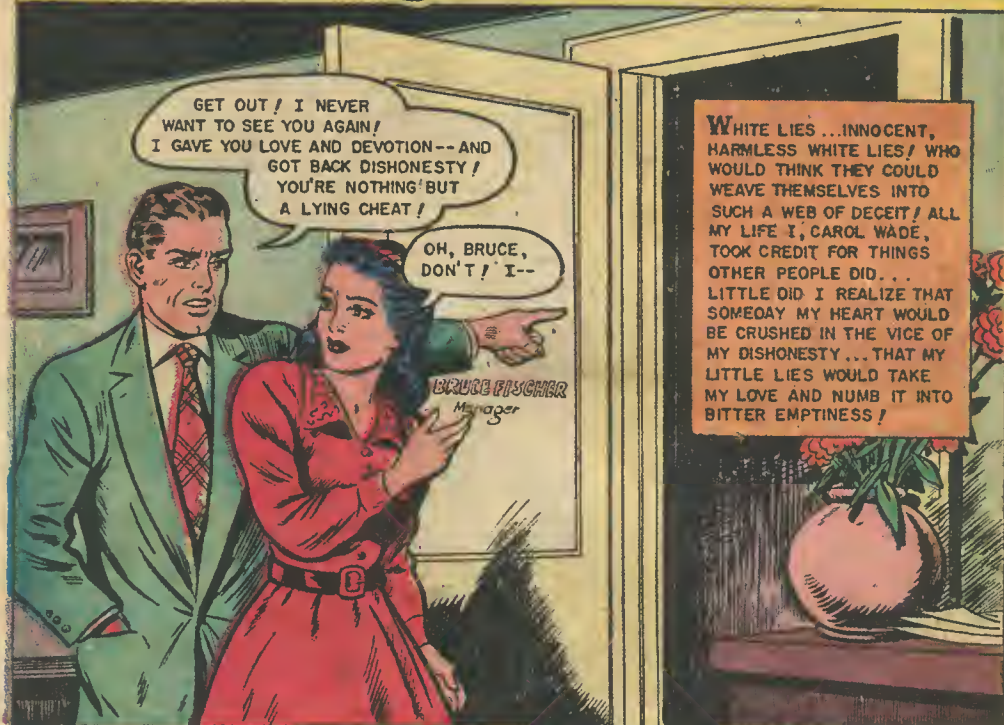
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MY TERRIBLE CONFESSION



OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS I CONTINUED WITH MY "SMALL INNOCENT LIES"! AFTER I FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL I TOOK A JOB AS A STOCK GIRL IN VOGEL'S DEPARTMENT STORE...

LOOK AT ALL THESE SWEATERS! IT'LL TAKE US HOURS TO FINISH AND I'VE GOT A DATE TONIGHT! WE'LL NEVER BE THROUGH IN TIME, LUCY!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CAROL! YOU CAN LEAVE EARLY! I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS FOR TONIGHT! I DON'T MIND STAYING LATE!

I MET MY DATE THAT NIGHT AND LUCY STAYED...AND THE NEXT MORNING...

SAY, YOU MUST BE A MAGICIAN, MISS WADE! I SEE ALL THE SWEATERS ARE READY TO GO ON SALE!

WELL, I DID HAVE TO WORK RATHER LATE LAST NIGHT, MR. HOWARD... BUT I WANTED TO HAVE THEM ALL FINISHED FOR YOU!

I APPRECIATE IT, MISS WADE! WE DON'T HAVE MANY GIRLS WHO ARE AS DEPENDABLE AS YOU...AND DON'T

I DON'T WANT ANY REWARD, MR. HOWARD! I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN DOING A GOOD JOB FOR VOGELS!

THINK I'LL FORGET IT! BEFORE LONG I MAY HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

I TRIED TO HIDE MY EXCITEMENT WHEN, A WEEK LATER, MR. HOWARD CALLED ME INTO HIS OFFICE...

BRUCE...THIS IS MISS CAROL WADE! THE GIRL I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU ABOUT! MISS WADE, THIS IS BRUCE FISCHER, MANAGER OF OUR NEW STORE IN KEMTOWN!

HELLO, MISS WADE!

HOW DO YOU DO!

MY HEART THUDDDED STRANGELY AS I LOOKED AT BRUCE! HE WAS THE HANDSOMEST MAN I'D EVER SEEN! I BARELY HEARD MR. HOWARD'S WORDS

...MR. FISCHER IS OPENING THE NEW STORE AT KEMTOWN! IN RETURN FOR YOUR WORK HERE AT VOGEL'S, WE'RE OFFERING YOU THE JOB OF HEAD OF STOCK IN THE NEW STORE!

OH! OH, YES! I'LL TAKE THE JOB!

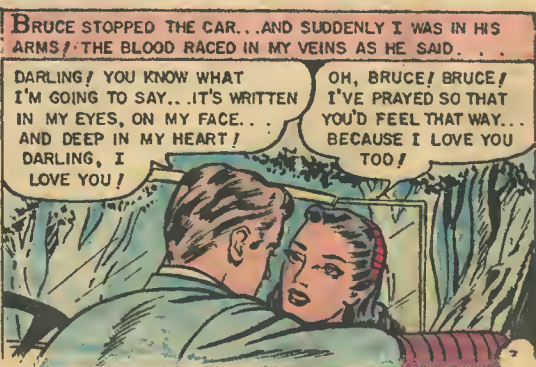
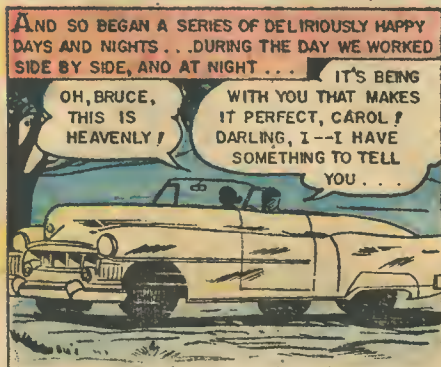
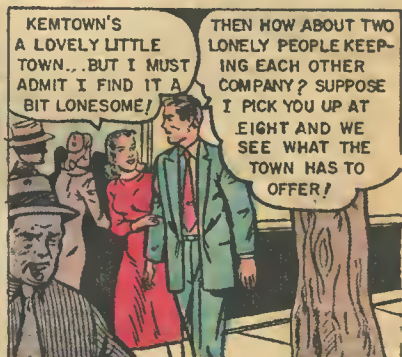
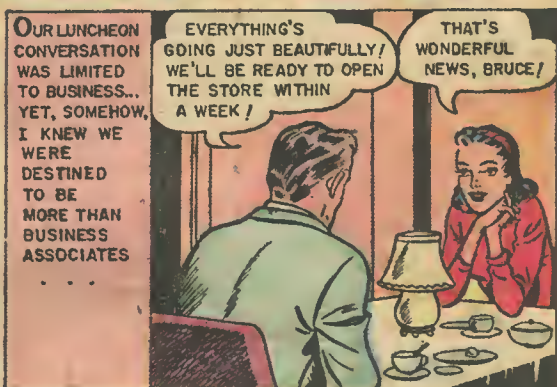
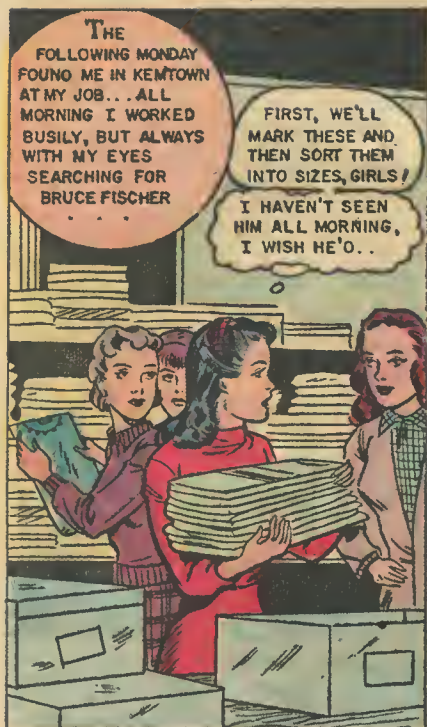
I WAS IN A DAZE AS I WALKED OUT OF THAT OFFICE! AT LAST I WAS HEAD OF STOCK...AND BRUCE FISCHER WAS MY NEW BOSS...

WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD...AND WE'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER! LET'S CUT THE FORMALITIES RIGHT NOW! I'M BRUCE...

ALL RIGHT, FROM NOW ON IT'S CAROL AND BRUCE!

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS PASSED IN A FRENZY OF ANTICIPATION...MY DELIGHT AT MY NEW JOB WAS SURPASSED ONLY BY MY INTEREST IN BRUCE...MY THOUGHTS CONSTANTLY RETURNED TO HIS HANDSOME FACE AND WIDE GRIN

I GUESS I'M THE LUCKIEST GIRL ALIVE! A WONDERFUL NEW JOB AND BRUCE FISCHER AS A BOSS!



OUR LOVE GREW STRONGER
DAY BY DAY / AND THEN ONE
DAY AT THE STORE...

CAROL, I'M IN A JAM/WE EMPTIED
THE EAST WINDOW THIS MORNING
FOR NEW TRIMMING... AND THE
WINDOW TRIMMER JUST
CALLED TO SAY
SHE'S SICK!

DON'T GET UPSET,
DEAR. I THINK I
CAN TAKE CARE
OF IT!

I SENT
BRUCE BACK TO HIS JOB
AND WENT TO THE EAST WINDOW...

THIS IS QUITE A
PROBLEM, MISS GREENE!
I'VE NEVER TRIMMED
A WINDOW BEFORE!

DON'T WORRY,
MISS WADE/ IN MY
LAST JOB I DOUBLED
AS A WINDOW TRIMMER
AND SALESGIRL!

WE WORKED FOR TWO HOURS... I
HANDLED THE MERCHANDISE TO MISS
GREENE WHO ARRANGED IT IN THE
WINDOW...

THERE!
THAT DOES
IT!

IT LOOKS
BEAUTIFUL / I DON'T
KNOW HOW TO THANK
YOU!

AFTER I'D SENT MISS GREENE
BACK TO HER JOB, I CALLED BRUCE
TO SEE THE WINDOW...

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN'T
DO, MY DARLING? I COULDN'T
HAVE TRIMMED THAT WINDOW
IF MY LIFE DEPENDED
ON IT!

OH, IT WASN'T
MUCH, DARLING/ MISS
GREENE HANDED ME
THE CLOTHES AND
THE REST WAS
SIMPLE!

BRUCE'S ADMIRATION QUIETED
ANY QUALMS I HAD ABOUT TAKING
CREDIT FOR MISS GREENE'S
WORK... AS THE WEEKS PASSED
I PILED LIE UPON LIE...

BRUCE LOVES
COOKIES, I'LL
GET SOME FOR
HIM!

AND
LATER THAT NIGHT...

AND YOU CAN COOK, TOO! THESE
COOKIES YOU BAKED ARE TERRIFIC!
DARLING, EVERY DAY YOU'RE MORE WON-
DERFUL/ I'LL NEVER BE COMPLETELY
HAPPY UNTIL
YOU'RE MY
WIFE!

NOR I TILL
YOU'RE MY
HUSBAND,
BRUCE!

A WEEK LATER AS I ENTERED
THE STORE I NOTICED A FLURRY
OF EXCITEMENT.

ATTENTION EMPLOYEES OF VOGELS!

A PRIZE OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS
WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE BEST
SLOGAN FOR VOGEL'S NEW SUMMER
CAMPAIGN! SUBMIT ALL ENTRIES TO
A. J. HOWARD, PERSONELL DIRECTOR,
MAIN OFFICE.

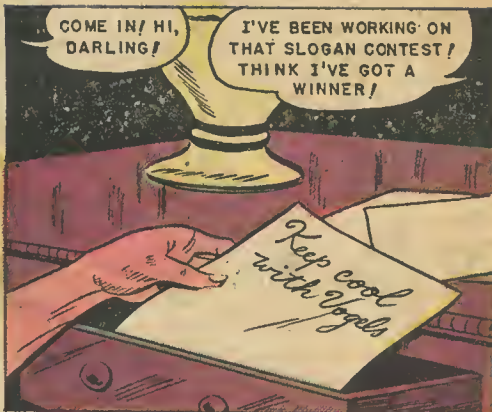
THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONTEST EXCITED ME... I SPENT THE NEXT EVENING WRITING A SLOGAN...

I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT TEN OF THESE THINGS... BUT I THINK THIS IS THE BEST! OH, THE DOORBELL! BRUCE! I-I'LL HIDE THE SLOGAN! IF I WIN I'LL SURPRISE HIM!



COME IN! HI, DARLING!

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT SLOGAN CONTEST! THINK I'VE GOT A WINNER!



OH, TELL ME, BRUCE! WHAT IS IT?

NO, I'M NOT TELLING! IF I WIN I WANT TO SURPRISE YOU! THEN YOU'LL BE PROUD OF ME... LIKE I AM OF YOU!



FOR DAYS EVERYTHING RAN SMOOTHLY... AND THEN BRUCE CAUGHT ME IN MY FIRST LIE!

YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, DARLING! THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL SWEATER... THE COLOR'S PERFECT FOR YOU!

I KNITTED IT MYSELF. I LOVE TO KNIT!



LATER...

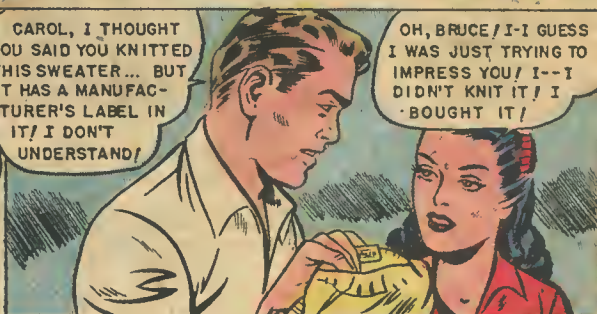
WE'D BETTER HURRY, DARLING! OR WE'LL MISS THE EARLY SHOW!

I'M COMING! I--HEY, YOU FORGOT YOUR SWEATER!



CAROL, I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU KNITTED THIS SWEATER... BUT IT HAS A MANUFACTURER'S LABEL IN IT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

OH, BRUCE! I-I GUESS I WAS JUST TRYING TO IMPRESS YOU! I--I DIDN'T KNIT IT! I BOUGHT IT!



CAROL, DARLING! DON'T EVER LIE TO ME... YOU DON'T HAVE TO IMPRESS ME, MY ANGEL, I LOVE YOU FOR YOURSELF! THAT'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND... EVEN WHITE LIES!

I PROMISE, BRUCE... I'LL NEVER LIE TO YOU AGAIN! NEVER!



I SWORE TO MYSELF THAT I'D NEVER AGAIN TAKE CREDIT FOR SOMETHING I DIDN'T DO... I'D TELL NO MORE WHITE LIES/ ABOUT A MONTH LATER...

NOW, LET'S SEE...THIS SHIPMENT ARRIVED...

CAROL/ YOU WON THE CONTEST/ THIS WIRE FROM MR. HOWARD... IT SAYS THEY PICKED YOUR SLOGAN / I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, DARLING/

OH, BRUCE/ YOU'RE JUST TEASING ME/ YOU MEAN I REALLY WON?

YOU SURE DID, HONEY/ THE WIRE SAYS YOU'RE TO REPORT TO MR. HOWARD MONDAY MORNING/ THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A BIG CELEBRATION DINNER IN YOUR HONOR/

IT WAS WITH A PROUD HEART THAT I REPORTED TO MR. HOWARD AT THE MAIN OFFICE...

MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS, MISS WADE/ I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D BE A SUCCESS/

THANK YOU, SO MUCH, MR. HOWARD/ I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE MY GOOD LUCK/

LUCK, NOTHING / IT WAS TALENT THAT WON THE CONTEST FOR YOU/ YOUR SLOGAN "VOGEL VALUES KEEP THE HEAT OUT" IS WHAT DID IT/

"V-VOGEL-VALUES KEEP--" - BUT I...

MY HEART STOPPED BEATING FOR AN INSTANT... THERE'D BEEN A DREADFUL MISTAKE/ I HADN'T WRITTEN THAT SLOGAN/ RIGHT THEN I SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE TRUTH BUT...

HASTE THE EXCITEMENT MADE YOU FORGET YOUR OWN SLOGAN? HA/HA/

O-OH, NO, OF COURSE NOT, MR. HOWARD/ I REMEMBER IT/

ALL DURING THE BIG DINNER THAT NIGHT I LOOKED FEARFULLY ABOUT THE ROOM... WHO HAD REALLY WRITTEN THAT SLOGAN?

BUT I CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH/ I CAN'T/ BRUCE WOULD BE SO DISAPPOINTED ... AND SO WOULD I / IF NO ONE SAYS ANYTHING TONIGHT, I'LL BE SAFE/ NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW/

AT LAST IT WAS OVER... AND I RETURNED TO BRUCE WITH PRAISE STILL RINGING IN MY EARS...

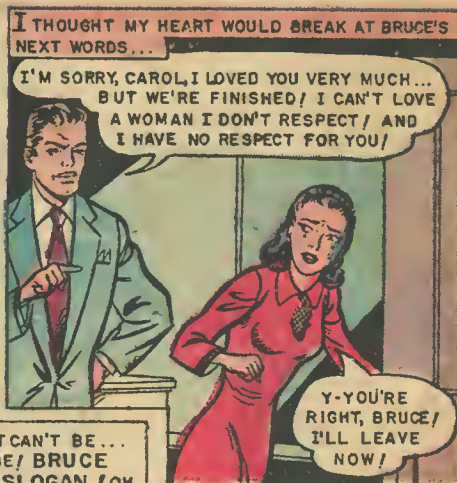
BRUCE/ OH, DARLING/ I'M SO GLAD TO BE BACK/ I MISSED YOU SO/

CAROL/ I KNOW YOU DIDN'T WRITE THAT SLOGAN/ YOU LIED AGAIN/ YOU TOOK CREDIT FOR SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T DO/



BUT,
BRUCE/
WAIT,
I...

I'VE LEARNED A LOT SINCE YOU'VE BEEN GONE, CAROL/ MISS GREENE TRIMMED THAT WINDOW YOU TOOK CREDIT FOR/ AND I SAW THE COOKIES YOU SUPPOSEDLY BAKED IN THE ROYALE BAKERY!



I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD BREAK AT BRUCE'S NEXT WORDS...

I'M SORRY, CAROL, I LOVED YOU VERY MUCH... BUT WE'RE FINISHED! I CAN'T LOVE A WOMAN I DON'T RESPECT! AND I HAVE NO RESPECT FOR YOU!

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, BRUCE/ I'LL LEAVE NOW!



I WALKED THROUGH THE STREETS IN A DAZE... I'D LOST BRUCE/ I WISHED I WERE DEAD...

I-I DON'T BLAME BRUCE--HE'S RIGHT/ BUT HOW DID BRUCE KNOW I DIDN'T WRITE THAT SLOGAN?

OH, NO/ NO! IT CAN'T BE... BUT IT MUST BE/ BRUCE WROTE THAT SLOGAN! OH, DEAR LORD, FORGIVE ME/ AND I TOOK ALL THE GLORY AND PRAISE FOR BRUCE'S WORK!



I RUSHED BACK TO MR. HOWARD'S OFFICE...

...I DIDN'T WRITE THAT SLOGAN/ BRUCE DID! THE CREDIT SHOULD BE HIS!

I KNOW/ BRUCE WANTED TO QUIT HIS JOB/ WHY DON'T YOU TALK IT OVER WITH HIM? HERE HE IS NOW!



BRUCE/ BRUCE/ HATE ME... BUT DON'T QUIT YOUR JOB/ YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD!

I DON'T HATE YOU, DARLING/ IT TAKES A BIG PERSON TO DO WHAT YOU JUST DID... AND I RESPECT YOU FOR IT/ I KNOW YOU'VE LEARNED A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET/ I LOVE YOU, CAROL!



IT WAS A BITTER EXPERIENCE BUT AT LAST I WAS FREE OF "MY LITTLE WHITE LIES"/ NO LONGER WOULD I BE WEAK AND COWARDLY/ WITH BRUCE'S LOVE I WOULD REGAIN MY LOST HONESTY...

OH, BRUCE/ BRUCE/ DON'T EVER STOP LOVING ME!
NEVER, DARLING/ NEVER!

THE END

CHEW "SPECIAL FORMULA"
CHEWING GUM!
Reduce

UP
TO

5 lbs. A WEEK

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CONFIDENTIAL

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You must be at least 25 years old to borrow by mail from State Finance.

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City State

Occupation Age

Amount you want to borrow \$



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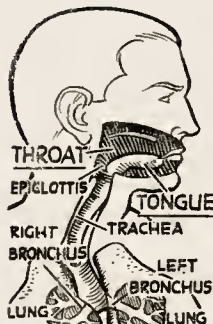
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